

**Appl. No. 10/799,800
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 10 December 2004**

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 11-30 are pending in the application.

The applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action requires an election of a species for prosecution on the merits. The applicants herein elect the third identified species, including claims 11-14, 17-18, 21-24, and 27-29.

The Office action asserts that the limitation of claims 11, 15, 16, 17, and 19 are not found in the specification. The applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion; each of the claimed limitations is clearly included in the specification.

The referenced claims are recited below, with references to the specification wherein at least one example of the claimed limitation is found. The applicants respectfully maintain that these cited examples are intended solely to demonstrate support of each claim limitation in the specification, and are not meant to limit the spirit or scope of the claims.

11. A patterned optical layer comprising a film that includes a pattern of first area segments and second area segments (page 4, lines 28-29), wherein the first area segments provide a first optical retardation (page 5, line 5), the second area segments provide a second optical retardation (page 7, lines 8-10), and the second optical retardation is substantially less than the first optical retardation (page 7, lines 8-10).

15. The patterned optical layer of claim 11, wherein the first area segments include a polymerized liquid crystal material (page 8, lines 7-8) and the second area segments include a transparent material (page 8, line 20).

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16. The patterned optical layer of claim 11, wherein the first area segments include a first polymerized liquid crystal material in a nematic liquid crystal phase (page 8, lines 25-27), and the second area segments include a second polymerized liquid crystal material in a clear state (page 8, lines 27-29).

17. The patterned optical layer of claim 11, wherein the first area segments include a first polymerized liquid crystal material having a planar orientation at a first angle (page 8, lines 32-34), and the second area segments include a second polymerized liquid crystal material having a planar orientation at a second angle (page 8, line 34 - page 9, line 2), wherein the first angle is substantially different from the second angle (page 8, line 32 - page 9, line 2).

19. The patterned optical layer of claim 11, wherein the first area segments include a first polymerized liquid crystal material having a first birefringence value (page 8, line 29), and the second area segments include a second polymerized liquid crystal material having a second birefringence value (page 8, lines 29-30), wherein the first birefringence value is substantially greater than the second birefringence value (page 8, lines 28-30).

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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